



TOP SECRET SENSITIVE
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

JCSM-683-67

6 DEC 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Operation NIGHT BOLT (U)

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TOP SECRET CONTROL	
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1. ~~(S)~~ Reference is made to JCSM-581-67, dated 26 October 1967, subject: "Blocking Haiphong Channel (C)." (attached)

2. (TS) The concept of Operation NIGHT BOLT, the scuttling of a submarine in the approach channel to Haiphong, was discussed in the reference. Essential to an assessment of the military advantages to be derived from an operation which could block Haiphong Channel (Cua Nam Trieu) is a determination of how effective such blockage would be in denying entrance to the port of Haiphong. If an operation designed to block only the narrow buoyed Cua Nam Trieu Channel is to be effective in restricting entry into Haiphong, shoals must exist on each side of the channel; otherwise, blocking the charted channel itself will have no major effect on entry of ships into Haiphong. Information from available charts and current intelligence is inconclusive. Reliable information on the hydrography of the channel and waters immediately adjacent thereto is therefore a prerequisite to a realistic assessment.

3. (TS) To gain this information, it is proposed to conduct a clandestine underwater reconnaissance of the area using a SEAL team from the USS TUNNY. The submarine would proceed submerged to the area. Departing from the submarine underwater, the swimmers would use swimmer delivery vehicles to proceed to the channel location and would conduct their reconnaissance in the buoyed channel and along the sand bar on each side of it. It is estimated that the reconnaissance could be conducted in about six hours time.

(In response to my query, Admiral Vasey, Secretary to the JCS, consulted with the Navy and reported that the risk of detection were "small, but acceptable," and the probability of success "high." Adm Vasey added that he is familiar with this type of operation and considers the training of the naval personnel who will conduct the operation as excellent.)

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4. (15) The Joint Chiefs of Staff request that approval be granted to conduct clandestine underwater reconnaissance in the Cua Nam Trieu Channel area.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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approved *Joint - approved subject to*
favorable consideration
other guidance *by the 303 Committee*

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